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**Regents Staffer Louisiana's Only Certified  
Videoconferencing Engineer**

The Board of Regents has set a new precedent for Louisiana by becoming the first organization in the state to boast a staff member certified in videoconferencing.

Cedric Banks, ATM Network Specialist for the Board of Regents, recently earned designation as a Certified Videoconferencing Engineer, (CVE), making him the first such engineer in Louisiana. Banks, who has accrued more than 12 years of videoconferencing installation, design, and integration experience, received certification on March 28, 2003, after passing a national examination on videoconferencing network configurations, and video-audio and network standard components.

"The CVE certification verifies Cedric's expertise on the national scale," said Mike Abbiatti, Board of Regents Associate Commissioner for Information and Learning Technology. "His certification provides important support resources for assisting systems and campuses in planning for, deploying and maintaining our increasingly complex statewide interactive video network."

Abbiatti added that when the Board of Regents began pursuing teleconferencing technology, the goal was to address four primary issues: to reduce course duplication, make unique courses available to a broader population, reduce the expense in course delivery, and foster collaboration among our campuses. He said the system is meeting all of those needs better every day, and providing a key service to other state agencies as well.

The Board of Regents plans to use Banks's expertise and experience in video networking by positioning him to devise and deliver training resources to ensure the highest-quality interactive video for

students. Banks will continue to coordinate with state agencies as the state government becomes more familiar with the total benefit of the video active network use.

He will also assist statewide technology support staff in preparing for testing associated with the CVE credential.

“This certification validates my experience thus far and allows me to proceed to the next level,” said Banks. “Before working with the Board of Regents, I worked with vendors and educators. I was a buyer, a seller and now I’m providing support for postsecondary education. You might say I’ve come full circle. I know exactly what components to incorporate in a system to maximize student benefit.”

The Board of Regents has been instrumental in bringing videoconferencing technology to higher education and to other state agencies. In fact, Regents has been recognized by the Smithsonian Institution for the success of the program. The technology is used extensively for interactive electronic learning and administrative meetings. Through interactive videoconferencing, many courses taught at only one or two campuses in the state can now be accessed by students in remote locations. In addition, campus-based personnel no longer have to travel to meetings when videoconferencing is appropriate.

Mike Abbiatti said that many other state agencies are taking advantage of the technology as well, since videoconferencing is generally more cost-effective than assembling participants from around the state at a single location for a meeting or conference. In fact, the technology is even being used by the Department of Health and Hospitals and LSU Health Science Center for “telemedicine,” the practice of providing continuing medical training to doctors and medical staff at facilities all across the state.

At present, the Board of Regents provides a large video network to the majority of higher education campuses, including a growing number of campuses of the Louisiana Community and Technical College System.

